

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOVERNOR AND FIRST LADY PRESENT STATE'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN HONOR TO SIX NORTH CAROLINIANS

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley and First Lady Mary Easley today presented six distinguished North Carolinians the prestigious North Carolina Award, the highest civilian honor the state can bestow. An awards committee selected the recipients from nominations submitted by the public. The categories included fine arts, literature, public service and science.

“These awards are our most prestigious civilian honor and are given to those North Carolinians whose contributions to the state are enduring and truly significant,” said Easley. “We are fortunate to live in a state with so many outstanding individuals who, through their leadership, their talents and their time, have helped make North Carolina a better place to live.”

Created by the General Assembly in 1961, the North Carolina Awards have been presented annually since 1964. More than 200 outstanding North Carolinians have been selected as recipients from citizens' nominations from across the state.

The 2005 N.C. Award winners are:

PUBLIC SERVICE: Joseph M. Bryan, Jr., of Greensboro, has dedicated himself to philanthropy and distinguished service in higher education and the arts in North Carolina for nearly 40 years. He has supported numerous arts and charitable organizations, including the N.C. Art Museum, Eastern Music Festival, and Wake Forest University. Bryan's generosity to the N.C. Museum of Art led to the construction of the Joseph M. Bryan Jr. outdoor theater in the museum park.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Betty Debnam Hunt, of Washington, D.C., is a journalist and educator. A passion for newspapers combined with her work as an elementary school teacher inspired Hunt's creation of “The Mini Page,” for children. The child-friendly newspaper supplement now appears in more than 400